12. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 10.

21. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA of claim 19.

22. (Amended) An expression vector comprising the DNA of claim 19.

23. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 21.

26. (Amended) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 4, and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

27. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 2.

28. (New) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 2.

29. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 4.

30. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 27.

31. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 28.

32. (New) A method of producing cyclic lipopeptide acylase, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 28, and harvesting, from the obtained culture, cyclic lipopeptide acylase capable of catalyzing a reaction to deacylate a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group.

33. (New) A cyclic lipopeptide acylase produced by the production method of claim 32.

34. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 9.

35. (New) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 9.

36. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 34.

37. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 35.

38. (New) A method of producing cyclic lipopeptide acylase, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 35, and harvesting, from the obtained culture, cyclic lipopeptide acylase capable of catalyzing a reaction to deacylate a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group.

39. (New) A cyclic lipopeptide acylase produced by the production method of claim 38.

40. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA of claim 20.

41. (New) An expression vector comprising the DNA of claim 20.

42. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 40.

43. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 41.

44. (New) A method of producing cyclic lipopeptide acylase, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 41, and harvesting, from the obtained culture, cyclic lipopeptide acylase capable of catalyzing a reaction to deacylate a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group.

45. (New) A cyclic lipopeptide acylase produced by the production method of claim 44.

46. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 11 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

47. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 35 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

48. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 22 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

49. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 41 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.